CLAIMS:

1.   A system for highlighting lightpaths in a mesh wavelength (WDM) network comprising: means to input via a user interface a selected lightpath from a source to a destination in the network, and means to highlight said selected lightpath on a display of said user interface.

2.   The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said means to input allows an operator to designate a protection path for said lightpath.

3.   The system as defined in claim 2 wherein said means to highlight allows highlighting of the protection path.

4.   The system as defined in claim 3 wherein said highlighting for said selected lightpath is different then said highlighting for said protective path.

5.   The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said means to highlight includes a point and click input device.

6.   The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said means to input allows an operator to drill-in to display on a finer scale network nodes in the selected lightpath.

7.   The system as defined in claim 2 wherein said protection path includes a protection path from said source to said destination.

8.   The system as defined in claim 2 wherein said protection path includes a protection path for lightpath segments making up the lightpath.

9.   The system as defined in claim 4 wherein different colors are used to distinguish between said selected lightpath and said protection path.

10.   A method of highlighting a lightpath in a mesh WDM network comprising inputting a selected lightpath from a source to a destination in a network management application; and activating a highlight function in order to highlight the selected path on a graphical user interface.

11.   The method as defined in claim 10 wherein said network management application provides a system user with input means to input user selections in response to options presented on GUI.

12.   The method as defined in claim 11 wherein said GUI displays parameters respecting said selected lightpath.

13.   The method as defined in claim 12 wherein said user is able to highlight a protection path for said selected path.

14.   The method as defined in claim 13 wherein said options include drilling in on a segment path to view network nodes and shelf level details.

15.   The method as defined in claim 13 wherein said selected path and said protection path are highlighted by different means.

16.   The method as defined in claim 15 wherein said selected path and said protection path are highlighted by different colors on said GUI.